

**CITY OF SANTA FE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2020 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Jason Tabor.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Jason Tabor
Mayor Pro-tem Bill Pittman
Councilmember IV Hoke
Councilmember Jason O'Brien
Councilmember Corey Jannett
Councilmember Fidencio Leija

Also in attendance were City Manager Glen Adams, City Secretary Janet L. Davis, Police Chief Philip Meadows, City Marshal Robert Wood, Director of Administrative Services Stacey Baker, Library Director Brenda Cheatham, Community Services Director Diana Steelquist, and Building Official Marty Haley.

Workshop: Discussion of 2020/2021 general fund operating budget

City Manager Glen Adams reviewed the changes made to the proposed budget based upon discussions from the previous workshop. He said this budget is in the amount of \$6,215,926 with a projected ending fund balance of \$2,121,451. Councilmember Pittman said he supports the increased retirement of 2 to 1, but in do so he reminded Council that this is a recurring commitment with an annual cost of about \$170,000. He requested that \$25,000 be added as an expense for contracted engineering services. He also said we want to encourage the police department to slow the motoring public before he commits to hiring a deputy marshal for traffic enforcement. Chief Meadows said the department is back in full operation, with COVID precautionary measures, and the STEP program and other programs are being worked again. Councilmember Leija discussed safety aspects and other advantages of a deputy marshal. Mr. Adams recommended we hold off on adding the deputy marshal position to give the police department time to actively enforce traffic regulations and to give staff time to determine whether we can legally add a marshal for traffic enforcement since our police officers are covered by civil service and collective bargaining.

Council discussed the College of the Mainland Promise Program, and Ms. Jodi Gidley of College of the Mainland requested Council's financial support of the program. She said promise funds are applied to students' tuition and fees after any other financial aid is applied. Ms. Gidley added that information was provided on the economic benefits of this investment, and Council asked to restrict the city's program funds to recent graduates that are Santa Fe city residents. Fire Marshal Tony Dauphine asked if the funds would apply to dual credit and collegiate program students, but the answer was not at this time under this program but there may be other support available for those students.

Councilmember Pittman reiterated that he would like the comprehensive plan to be a future item for consideration once Council determines whether to seek proposals for such services and the proposed cost associated with development of a long-term plan.

Mr. Adams said the street department has been at the same level of street improvement funding for many years and we were able to pave about 4 miles of streets a few years ago but now we are only able to stretch that \$165,000 to about 1.6 miles. Council considered increasing funding to \$200,000 for street improvements to allow us to pave a little more next fiscal year.

Business:

a. Consideration and possible action: Discussion of calculated tax rates, determining tax rate to propose to fund upcoming budget, and scheduling public hearing if necessary

City Secretary Janet Davis reviewed the certified values and no new revenue rate of \$0.294043, consisting of a maintenance and operations rate of \$0.267366 and a debt service rate of \$0.026677. She said the no new revenue rate (formerly known as the effective tax rate) would generate property tax levy in the amount of \$2,424,646. She also explained that Council needs to determine a tax rate to propose and schedule a public hearing if the proposed rate will exceed the no new revenue rate. Ms. Davis said any increase above 3.5 percent requires voter approval at an election that would be held in November. Motion by Councilmember Hoke, seconded by Councilmember O'Brien to propose a rate of \$0.301455, a 3.5 percent increase in the no new revenue rate, and to schedule a public hearing for August 27, 2020, at 7 p.m. Councilmember Pittman said he is in favor of no increase, and Mayor Tabor said he supports a tax increase to ensure funding will be secure for our recurring commitments. Council discussed proposing an increase and holding a public hearing to hear from the citizenry about increased funding for street improvements and engineering expenses to help with drainage issues in our community. The motion passed the roll call vote four to one. Those voting for: Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Jannett, Councilmember Leija, and Councilmember Hoke. Those voting against: Councilmember Pittman.

Motion by Councilmember Pittman, seconded by Councilmember Jannett to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

JASON TABOR, MAYOR

Janet L. Davis, City Secretary